

Mechanic School at Scott Air Force Base in Bellville, Illinois. After graduation, he was assigned to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California where he spent the entire war fighting the battle of San Francisco. In 1955, he went to work for General Motors and worked his way up to Export Manager.

In the summer of 1956, he was introduced by a mutual friend to his lovely wife of 45 years, Mary Anne, in Rockaway. They were married in June of 1957 and had three wonderful children, Peter, a Civil Court Judge, Anne Marie, a Democratic District Leader—and my talented District Chief of Staff—Carleen. They now have a loving daughter-in-law Cathy, a terrific son-in-law Robert, and have been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, Christian, Bobby, Brian, and Meghan.

Mr. Kelly attended night school and graduated from Pace College in 1963. When his wife Mary Anne was elected District Leader in 1970, he was drafted into the Powhatan Democratic Club where he served very effectively as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He served in every capacity and performed every job associated with the organization. His dedication and untiring effort on behalf of the community and club earned him the respect of everyone who has ever known him.

Since retiring in 1991, Mr. Kelly has been devoted to being a loving husband, father, and more importantly, a grandpa. He can be spotted at his grandchildren's games on a regular basis. Although he has faced a recent health setback, he still possesses a great sense of humor and is loved by all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge, here on the floor, the lifetime of contributions Peter Kelly has made to his country, his community and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 80, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING BERNARD BECKER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday April 10, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bernard Becker, South Florida's National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Mr. Becker has been a strong voice and a driving force behind the Jewish War Veterans as an influential leader in the fight against anti-semitism. Like all men and women of the Jewish War Veterans, Mr. Becker has courageously served our nation in the armed services, and is now working to ensure good relations between the U.S. and Israel—an increasingly meaningful objective.

Bernard Becker, an active member of the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1954, proudly served our nation during the Korean

conflict. He subsequently served in the Air Force Reserve until 1958. Mr. Becker then served in a number of veteran leadership roles, and eventually with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, both as the National Commander and as a National Convention Co-Chairman. During his tenure with the organization, Mr. Becker has been consistently recognized for his outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard Becker has served his country with honor and pride. I am confident that as the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America continue to fight bigotry and hatred, Mr. Becker will continue to lend his knowledge and leadership to this cause.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 81, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

APRIL 12, 2002, GRAND OPENING OF PANASONIC'S DIGITAL TECH- NOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Panasonic for the April 12, 2002 grand opening at Hollywood's Universal Studios of a center that consolidates and expands Panasonic's R&D efforts to develop next-generation digital video compression technologies for the entertainment industry. This proximity to the entertainment community will result in new and better products for American consumers, while reinforcing Hollywood's preeminent position as the center of the global entertainment industry.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, Ltd., best known by its brand name Panasonic, and a worldwide leader in the development and manufacture of electronics products for consumer, business, and industrial needs, has a long record of close cooperation with Hollywood in developing new digital technologies for the studios, ranging from next generation optical disc development to advanced technologies for digital cinema and broadband distribution. Matsushita Electric established its High-Definition Telecine Center on the Universal Studios lot in 1993 with the mission of converting film-based content to High Definition video. Today HDTC is a leading high-definition center—digitally converting, restoring, and enhancing film for theatrical, cable and home video purposes.

In 1996, on the same lot, the company opened the Digital Video Compression Center, a pioneering DVD authoring center. The DVCC currently authors numerous studio titles and provides video compression, complex special editions, and multi-angle/multi-story authoring capabilities. Five years later, Panasonic Hollywood Lab, a division of

Panasonic Technologies Company, opened a research center to develop next-generation digital video compression and technologies for broadband distribution of video and other digital content. The new center, under the direction of Mr. Masayuki Kozuka, now will add a digital image evaluation facility to its areas of focus. Here industry professionals will interact with lab engineers to evaluate High Definition image quality for digital cinema, digital TV and next-generation optical disks, as well as highly compressed imaging for future mobile devices.

On this important occasion, my special congratulations go to Sukeichi Miki, chief technology officer and senior managing director of Matsushita Electric; Kazuo Toda, senior managing director of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (Panasonic); Dr. Paul Liao, president and COO of Panasonic Technologies Company and vice president and chief technology officer for Matsushita Electric Corporation of America; and Ron Meyer, president and COO, Universal Studios. I am very proud to have this important digital technology research facility in my district, adding to Hollywood's recognized leadership in the entertainment industry.

TWO PATHS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this OpEd as it appeared in the Washington Times newspaper last week. Entitled, "Two Paths Towards Democracy" this OpEd brings to our attention the great efforts currently underway in the Republic of Congo to re-establish lasting democratic institutions and the rule of law. With parliamentary and municipal elections forthcoming in Congo, it is important that we encourage the country and its leaders along the path of further transparency and liberalization. Recent President elections, in which nearly 75 percent of registered voters cast ballots without fear of intimidation or violence, demonstrates that democratic gains are already being consolidated into a reliable political tradition.

Under President Sassou-Nguesso's stewardship, Congo has shown a remarkable recovery from nearly a decade of civil war. Without any external assistance, the president successfully began a process of national reconciliation, which will reach its crescendo during this month's historic elections. I am grateful to that country's very able ambassador, Serge Mombouli, for keeping me and my colleagues apprised of the many positive developments in his country.

As Africa's third largest exporter of crude oil, Congo is home to nearly \$2 billion worth of U.S. direct investment and is a strategic partner in our search for diversified sources of petroleum. Furthermore, Congo has developed as a key regional peacemaker, opening its door to over 100,000 refugees from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, while serving as a model to other countries seeking a recovery from decades of civilian conflict.

I am joined by my colleagues in saluting the leadership of our friends in the Republic of